

broadening access to home and community-based services, we can help ensure that the quality of care individuals receive in their home and community is just as accessible an option as hospital and institutional attention.

Madam Speaker, this is an important resolution for three crucial reasons. First, it endorses the efforts of the elderly and individuals with disabilities to remain independent and sustain their viability during the last years of their life. Supporting studies show that individuals who receive home and community-based care have greater life expectancies than those who are moved from everything that is familiar to them and placed in hospitals and other forms of institutional care.

Second, this resolution promotes the expansion of employment opportunities in the nursing and in-home care industries. By implementing government funded in-home care as a viable alternative to that of nursing home care, more seniors will elect to be nursed at home, creating a situation that will enhance their quality of life while also increasing job opportunities.

Finally, this resolution encourages the implementation of more unified training and supervision standards for certified nurse aides and homecare aides. Through adoption of uniformly high standards, we can ensure our citizens in need have access to qualified professionals when selecting home and community-based care.

According to the National Association for Home Care and Hospice, which I am proud to report supports this resolution, patients receiving home and community-based care are more likely to enjoy better outcomes, including a greater responsibility for healthier living, increased independence and productivity, self-esteem, family cohesion and overall contribution to their larger community.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation. As Members of Congress, we have a great opportunity to make a positive impact on this issue, an issue that is of concern to many of our grandparents, parents, and will be of concern to us. I look forward to working with my colleagues and moving this resolution forward.

HONORING THE MINNEAPOLIS
VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL
CENTER FOR RECEIVING THE
16TH ANNUAL ROBERT W. CAREY
PERFORMANCE EXCELLENCE
AWARD

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2007

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the Minneapolis Veterans Affairs Medical Center, its director Stephen Kleinglass, and the entire medical center staff, for being recognized as a 2007 award recipient at the 16th Annual Secretary's Robert W. Carey Performance Excellence Ceremony on November 1st, 2007. This Department of Veterans Affairs award acknowledges the highest levels of performance and service excellence through evaluation by rigorous criteria.

As the daughter of a WWII veteran, I feel strongly about honoring our veterans and their

families. The professionalism and high quality of care provided by the staff of the Minneapolis Veterans Affairs Medical Center is evident whenever I visit.

Serving nearly 75,000 veterans each year, the Minneapolis Veterans Affairs Medical Center is among the most active in the country. Through its partnership with University of Minnesota Medical and Dental Schools, it has distinguished itself by providing the highest quality health care to veterans. Minnesota and western Wisconsin veterans and their families have long appreciated the staff commitment to serve all veterans.

The dedication of staff to provide the highest level of care is particularly visible through their work to meet the great needs of our injured veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. Minneapolis is just one of four locations in the Nation with a Polytrauma Rehabilitation Center designed to provide intensive rehabilitative care to veterans and service members who experienced multiple severe injuries, including brain injuries. Construction on a new Spinal Cord Injury Center is underway, and is scheduled to open in 2008.

The success of our Nation's veterans health system depends on caring, dedicated people serving our veterans, but they cannot do the job alone. On the battlefield, the military pledges to leave no soldier behind. As a Nation, let it be our pledge that when they return home, we will leave no veteran behind.

This year, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the largest single increase in the 77-year history of the Veterans Administration—\$6.7 billion. This funding is necessary to ensure that the Minneapolis Veterans Affairs Medical Center, and VA medical centers across the country have the resources they need to fund the increasing need for mental health, posttraumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury care, and to provide facilities maintenance, and to continue reducing the backlog of veterans benefits claims.

The Minneapolis Veterans Affairs Medical Center has a proven record of organizational excellence. The Carey Award recognition allows the leadership shown in Minnesota to serve as a model for other organizations in assessing their own transformation efforts, effectiveness and service performance. Most importantly, this award recognizes the outstanding efforts made by the staff on behalf of our veterans at the Minneapolis Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

Madam Speaker, please join me in commending the Minneapolis Veterans Affairs Medical Center staff for earning the Robert W. Carey Performance Excellence Award. These caring people exemplify the very best in public service.

LENOX HILL HOSPITAL CELEBRATES ITS 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 1, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Lenox Hill Hospital on the occasion of its 150th Anniversary. Lenox Hill Hospital is an accredited not-for-profit acute-care hospital and teaching affiliate of New York University Medical Center lo-

cated on the Upper East Side of Manhattan in New York City. Lenox Hill Hospital has become renowned for furthering medical research and establishing a tradition of excellence in patient care. It has earned a national reputation for outstanding medical care and treatment.

Lenox Hill Hospital was established in 1857 as the German Dispensary and today provides specialty services and ground-breaking care for millions of patients each year. Approximately 45% of Lenox Hill Hospital's patients are from Manhattan. The remaining 55% come from Brooklyn, Bronx, Queens, Long Island, the Tri-State area and around the world. Lenox Hill Hospital is particularly well known for its excellence in internal medicine, cardiovascular disease, orthopedics, sports medicine, maternal/child health and medical research.

For the past 150 years, Lenox Hill Hospital has been a leading innovator in many fields of medicine, developing standards and practices that became models for other hospitals throughout the country. In 1897, the hospital installed one of the first X-ray machines in the United States. Ten years later, the hospital established the first physical therapy department in the country.

In 1938, Lenox Hill was the first hospital to perform an angiogram in the nation and in 1955 it became one of the first hospitals in New York City to open a cardiac catheterization laboratory. The first coronary angioplasty in the United States was performed at Lenox Hill in 1978. In 1994, Lenox Hill Hospital surgeons pioneered minimally invasive direct coronary artery bypass surgery. In 2003, the first FDA approved drug coated stent in the nation was implemented at Lenox Hill. In 2006, Lenox Hill opened a new radiology center featuring the only SPECT-CT in the Northeast, a machine which allows physicians to see inside the body in great detail and a new 64-slice CT scanner, one of the most highly advanced computerized imaging technologies available today.

Lenox Hill is respected as a leading responder to health crises. When tuberculosis was becoming a growing public health threat, Lenox Hill Hospital was the first general hospital in the United States to open a tuberculosis division in 1908. In 1943, Lenox Hill Hospital sent its medical unit to England to maintain station hospitals for military personnel during World War II. In 1989, the hospital established the first Lyme Disease Center in New York City.

In keeping with its tradition of providing an immediate and necessary response during times of crisis, on September 11th, when terrorists struck the World Trade Center, Lenox Hill assembled a disaster team that came to the aid of hundreds of New Yorkers. The hospital set up a free walk-in Crisis Counseling Center as well as a blood donor center. Lenox Hill Hospital, as it has done in the past, provided aid to people when it was needed the most and became a beacon of hope for so many on that horrific day.

Madam Speaker, I rise to request that my colleagues join me in paying tribute to Lenox Hill Hospital and its legacy of medical innovation and excellence in patient care.